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COUNTRY Bulgaria; Rumania

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Economic - Pier construction

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INFORMATION ON CONSTRUCTION WORK ALONG DANUBE,
BULGARIAN-RUMANIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS, RECALL OF RESERVISTS IN BULGARIA

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The labor battalions (trudovaks) have just finished building a 3-kilometer-long pier in the vicinity of Vidin on the Danube. This pier was built as a reserve in case the pier at Vidin, now in use, should be destroyed by war.

This new pier is a few kilometers east of Vidin, facing the Rumanian city of Calafat, also on the Danube. The building was done in secret, and no one was allowed to enter the immediate vicinity of the construction area. The pier, hidden by a little island, would be invisible even from the Danube.

Construction work was also in progress across the river, on the Rumanian side, near Calafat, but it was impossible to tell whether or not a pier was being built.

According to certain information, trenches are being dug in other places along the Rumanian side, east of Calafat.

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several regiments of
Bulgarian troops were sent from Dubrudzha (where they had been concentrated

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following their recent mobilization) to Rumania, but also states that troops were transported during the summer for joint Rumanian-Bulgarian maneuvers on Rumanian territory.

After the maneuvers, the regular Bulgarian troops took part in a military review, organized and presided over by the Rumanian general who is commander of an area somewhere in the Constanta vicinity.

Rumanian detachments then were sent to the vicinity of Vidin to participate in maneuvers on Bulgarian territory.

These combined maneuvers come under the category of unification of Satellite armies under Soviet command.

* * *

Sabotage seems to be increasing in various factories of late

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The Georgi Dimitrov Works (formerly the repair shop near the Sofia station) was definitely sabotaged. A strong blast destroyed part of the equipment, killing several workers. Numerous arrests were made.

The fire which destroyed the SS Dimitur Blagoev could easily have been sabotage, since the fire broke out simultaneously in eight places.

Three hundred arrests were made in hope of apprehending the guilty persons, but the trials have brought no results to date.

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Formerly, reservists subject to recall were released after participating in a 45-day training course. However, no information has been forthcoming as to the release of the reservists mentioned in the above-listed letters, and it is unlikely that many of them could have been released without their demobilization becoming generally known. Since the 45-day period is over, at least for those first called, observers are wondering if the reservists were recalled to strengthen the regular, and already large, Bulgarian Army. This would certainly be dangerous should it prove true.

It is, of course, possible that some of them were released

The general opinion is that this is a vital question, and one to be followed closely.

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In many parts of the capital, the authorities are drilling for wells. Once water is found, pipes are installed, and then the operations are camouflaged. The purpose is to create an easily accessible reserve water supply in case of air raids.

Work of this nature has been done at Lenin Square (previously Sveta Nedelia), in Poduene Rayon, and elsewhere.

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[redacted]

The large-scale recall of reservists during the final months of 1951 seems to have been a temporary measure. Various sources note the release of a large number of persons who had been recalled for re-training. Since detailed information is missing, it is impossible to assume that all reservists who were recalled have been released. Probably certain experts, trained in the use of new weapons and equipment given to the Bulgarian armed forces, were retained.

On the whole, it is unlikely that this mobilization was made to reinforce the regular troops, which are already well enough trained, but rather to see how quickly mobilization could be carried out. Some of the reservists were recalled for only a few days, while others were kept longer.

In various parts of the country, the recall of reservists came shortly after a check had been made on all reserve cadres by means of registration forms which were distributed and had to be filled out by those to whom they applied.

A similar check was made in Sofia on 27 January, and presumably the recalls in the capital will occur in February.

The above-mentioned forms dealing with the recall of reservists lead one to believe that the recalls -- subject of various letters, particularly that of 17 January -- are part of the trial mobilization scheduled for the end of 1951

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